

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-18, 20, and 22-31 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 1-2, 4, 6-11, 16, 18, 20, and 22-27 are amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections

Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-18, 20, and 22-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,907,324 to Larson et al. (hereinafter "Larson"), in view of United States Patent No. 5,631,904 to Fitser et al. (hereinafter "Fitser"), and further in view of United States Patent No. 6,192,123 to Grunsted et al. (hereinafter "Grunsted"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A. Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-15 are allowable.

As amended, claim 1 recites that a method of automatically establishing a conference comprises after allocating the conference bridge port to set up the conference, extracting the participant communication address from the conference logistics; after extracting the participant communication address, if the current participant communication address from the participant profile data differs from the participant communication address from the conference logistics, then updating the extracted participant communication address with the current participant communication address; and initiating a connection with the conference based on the current participant communication address.

Larson does not teach, suggest, or describe a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 1. On the contrary, Larson describes a method of saving, retrieving, and establishing a plurality of conference parameters that establishes a conference environment by opening the identified persistent conference object and reading all of the relevant conference parameters; locating the participants' telephone

numbers; and calling each of the participants, without suggesting updating the participants' telephone numbers with current telephone numbers after the participants' telephone numbers are located if the participants' profiles include current telephone numbers that differ from the participants' telephone numbers.

Larson also describes that whenever a change in one of the conference parameters occurs, a conference manager detects the change and stores the updated information into the persistent conference object. However, this is not analogous to the method of claim 1 because Larson fails to teach, suggest, or describe that once the participants' telephone numbers are located in order to establish a conference, the telephone numbers are updated with current telephone numbers included in the participants' profiles. Therefore, Larson does not teach, suggest, or describe a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 1.

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Fitser to attempt to cure the deficiencies of Larson. However, like Larson, Fitser does not teach, suggest, or describe a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 1. In contrast, Fitser describes a method for automatically establishing a conference call to a preselected list of participants by selecting a particular one of a subscriber's records based on an entered group identifier; causing bridge hardware to originate calls to each of the destinations specified in the record; and bridging each of the called participants into the conference call with the subscriber, without suggesting updating the participants' telephone numbers with current telephone numbers after one of the subscriber's records is selected if the selected subscriber's record includes current telephone numbers that differ from the participants' telephone numbers. Thus, Fitser fails to teach, suggest, or describe a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 1.

The Office Action further relies on the teaching of Grunsted to attempt to cure the deficiencies of the teaching of Larson and Fitser. However, like Larson and Fitser, Grunsted does not teach, suggest, or describe a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 1. On the contrary, Grunsted describes a method for initiating a conference call by establishing a customer account including a customer's default telephone number, customer's billing information, and a phone book that includes

the names and telephone numbers of a conference call group; receiving an account number and a password for the customer; and if the customer's login is verified, then providing the customer with the option of making a conference call to a conference call group in the phone book. If the customer selects the option to make a conference call to a conference call group in the phone book, then Grunsted describes receiving a selected conference call group from the customer and initiating a call to the customer via the customer's default telephone number. Once the customer is on the line, Grunsted describes initiating calls to each of the parties in the conference call group via the telephone number provided for the party in the phone book. This is not analogous to the method recited by claim 1 because Grunsted fails to teach, suggest, or describe that after the selected conference call group is received from the customer, the telephone numbers for the parties in the phone book are updated with current telephone numbers for the parties if the current telephone numbers differ from the telephone numbers provided for the parties in the phone book and initiating calls to the parties via the current telephone numbers for the parties. Instead, Grunsted describes receiving the selected conference call group from the customer and initiating calls to the parties of the conference call group via the telephone numbers for the parties provided in the phone book, without suggesting updating the telephone numbers for the parties in the phone book with current telephone numbers after receiving the selected conference call group from the customer and initiating calls to the parties via the current telephone numbers.

Grunsted also describes providing the customer with the options of changing the customer's default telephone number and modifying entries in the phone book if the customer's login is verified. If the customer selects the option to change the customer's default telephone number, then Grunsted describes receiving the new default telephone number and updating the database with the new default telephone number so that next time the customer logs in to the system, the new telephone number will appear as the customer's default number. If the customer selects to modify entries in the phone book, then Grunsted describes receiving the customer's modifications to an entry in the phone book and updating the database with the customer's modifications. This is not analogous to the method recited by claim 1 because Grunsted fails to teach, suggest, or describe that

after the selected conference call group is received from the customer, the telephone numbers for the parties in the phone book are updated with current telephone numbers for the parties if the current telephone numbers differ from the telephone numbers provided for the parties in the phone book.

For at least the reasons above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teaching of Larson, Fitser, and Grunsted fails to make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in independent claim 1. Since claims 2, 4, and 6-15 depend from independent claim 1 and recite additional features, Applicants submit that the combined teaching of Larson, Fitser, and Grunsted fails to make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in claims 2, 4, and 6-15. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

B. Claims 16-18, 20, and 22-31 are allowable.

As amended, claim 16 recites that a method of automatically establishing a conference comprises after allocating the conference bridge port to set up the conference, extracting a participant communication address from the conference logistics; after extracting the participant communication address, if the current participant communication address from the participant profile data differs from the participant communication address from the conference logistics, then updating the extracted participant communication address with the current participant communication address; and initiating a connection to the conference based on the current participant communication address.

Larson does not teach, suggest, or describe a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 16. On the contrary, Larson describes a method of saving, retrieving, and establishing a plurality of conference parameters that establishes a conference environment by opening the identified persistent conference object and reading all of the relevant conference parameters; locating the participants' telephone numbers; and calling each of the participants, without suggesting updating the participants' telephone numbers with current telephone numbers after the participants'

telephone numbers are located if the participants' profiles include current telephone numbers that differ from the participants' telephone numbers.

Larson also describes that whenever a change in one of the conference parameters occurs, a conference manager detects the change and stores the updated information into the persistent conference object. However, this is not analogous to the method of claim 16 because Larson fails to teach, suggest, or describe that once the participants' telephone numbers are located in order to establish a conference, the telephone numbers are updated with current telephone numbers included in the participants' profiles. Therefore, Larson does not teach, suggest, or describe a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 16.

The Office Action relies on the teaching of Fitser to attempt to cure the deficiencies of Larson. However, like Larson, Fitser does not teach, suggest, or describe a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 16. In contrast, Fitser describes a method for automatically establishing a conference call to a preselected list of participants by selecting a particular subscriber's records based on an entered group identifier; causing bridge hardware to originate calls to each of the destinations specified in the record; and bridging each of the called participants into the conference call with the subscriber, without suggesting updating the participants' telephone numbers with current telephone numbers after one of the subscriber's records is selected if the selected subscriber's record includes current telephone numbers that differ from the participants' telephone numbers. Thus, Fitser fails to teach, suggest, or describe a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 1.

The Office Action further relies on the teaching of Grunsted to attempt to cure the deficiencies of the teaching of Larson and Fitser. However, like Larson and Fitser, Grunsted does not teach, suggest, or describe a method of automatically establishing a conference as recited by claim 16. On the contrary, Grunsted describes a method for initiating a conference call by establishing a customer account including a customer's default telephone number and a phone book that includes the names and telephone numbers of a conference call group; receiving an account number and a password for the customer; and if the customer's login is verified, then providing the customer with the

option of making a conference call to a conference call group in the phone book. If the customer selects the option to make a conference call to a conference call group in the phone book, then Grunsted describes receiving a selected conference call group from the customer and initiating a call to the customer via the customer's default telephone number. Once the customer is on the line, Grunsted describes initiating calls to each of the parties in the conference call group via the telephone number provided for the party in the phone book. This is not analogous to the method recited by claim 16 because Grunsted fails to teach, suggest, or describe that after the selected conference call group is received from the customer, the telephone numbers for the parties in the phone book are updated with current telephone numbers for the parties if the current telephone numbers differ from the telephone numbers provided for the parties in the phone book and initiating calls to the parties via the current telephone numbers for the parties. Instead, Grunsted describes receiving the selected conference call group from the customer and initiating calls to the parties of the conference call group via the telephone numbers for the parties provided in the phone book, without suggesting updating the telephone numbers for the parties in the phone book with current telephone numbers after the selected conference call group is received from the customer and initiating calls to the parties via the current telephone numbers.

Grunsted also describes providing the customer with the options of changing the customer's default telephone number and modifying entries in the phone book if the customer's login is verified. If the customer selects the option to change the customer's default telephone number, then Grunsted describes receiving the new default telephone number and updating the database with the new default telephone number so that next time the customer logs in to the system, the new telephone number will appear as the customer's default number. If the customer selects to modify entries in the phone book, then Grunsted describes receiving the customer's modifications to an entry in the phone book and updating the database with the customer's modifications. This is not analogous to the method recited by claim 16 because Grunsted fails to teach, suggest, or describe that after the selected conference call group is received from the customer, the telephone numbers for the parties in the phone book are updated with current telephone numbers for

the parties if the current telephone numbers differ from the telephone numbers provided for the parties in the phone book.

For at least the reasons above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combined teaching of Larson, Fitser, and Grunsted fails to make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in independent claim 16. Since claims 17-18, 20, and 22-31 depend from independent claim 16 and recite additional features, Applicants submit that the combined teaching of Larson, Fitser, and Grunsted fails to make obvious Applicants' claimed invention as embodied in claims 17-18, 20, and 22-31. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

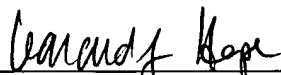
For at least these reasons, Applicants assert that the pending claims 1-2, 4, 6-18, 20, and 22-31 are in condition for allowance. The Applicants further assert that this response addresses each and every point of the Office Action, and respectfully request that the Examiner pass this application with claims 1-2, 4, 6-18, 20, and 22-31 to allowance. Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview with Applicants' attorney would further advance the case, please contact the undersigned at 404.954.5042.

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Respectfully submitted,

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